

March 16, 1976

CLERK: Read Keyes amendment found on pages 1157 and 1158 of the Journal.

SENATOR KEYES: I'm turned on, yet I find that there are a lot of people that aren't listening. I'm not going to spend a great deal of time talking to you about this. I think everybody on the floor of this Legislature is conscious of what we have had happen in Sarpy County in the last couple of weeks. Had it been possible to have gotten this in and on the bill before it left the Budget Committee I certainly would have done so. It just simply means that as far as Eastern Nebraska is concerned we do not have a comprehensive report on what the water studies of the various departments of state government have done for us. This is going to give, to the Department of Water Resources under Marianne Ball, enough money to hire a man to give us a study and let us know, when we come down to Lincoln, and find out where the water is and how much is available ... we are able to do so. Metropolitan areas of Nebraska have not been able to get this information. If you want to go out to Western Nebraska, Central Nebraska they can tell you how much water is available, how many wells can go in and not lower the water level. But when it comes to the Platte River Basin, which is partly on Sarpy and Douglas County, there is no accounting of it. I move that we accept this amendment to the bill. This will do exactly what we want to do. Right now Sarpy and Douglas County, along with the City of Lincoln, are doing a study. I think that the state owes this to Eastern Nebraska because we contribute a lot of taxes. I think we have that much coming. That's the only reason I ask for this. There's no debate. I'm not going to close. I expect a vote of at least 28 or 30 on this.

(Senator F. Lewis presiding)

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Senator Keyes. Senator Keyes, have you checked with the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska if or not they have this information available at this time?

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Kremer, I just checked with them this morning. The information, in partially, is available from every department. I don't see any reason why we should go out and accumulate this information and try to figure out what the population is going to consume in the next 20 years. We know what the wells are going to do in the next 20 years. But this information is available if you wish to study it and put it into the proper perspective and increase the population and do whatever you have to do with it.

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Keyes, I'm sure that the Department of Water Resource could use the \$50,000, but I also am sure that the information that you're looking for today is available now, I'm quite sure it is, in fact, I know it is. This is the only thing I'm talking about. We already have the information. We have it at a collection bank that's exactly set up for this purpose. The information is retrievable ... the information that's there. I checked on this and I understand that the Conservation and Survey Division does have exactly the information that you're looking for.